Central assistance for Hyderabad by-pass expressway

1822. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has sought Central assistance for laying 195 Km. long Hyderabad by-pass expressway; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of Andhra Pradesh has been advised that the construction of the by-pass could be taken up on BOT basis with private investment in view of paucity of resources available with the Ministry and taking into account the heavy traffic volume on the proposed by-pass.

National Waterways

1823. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked, actual allocation, year-wise amount disbursed and utilized in each of the National Waterways during the Ninth Plan;

(b) the details of plan and achievement for dredging, navigational aid, port development, survey vessel in each of the waterways since inception against total amount invested each year: and

(c) the number of dredgers used, year-wise vessels and barge moved in each of waterways during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delayed supply of Bitumen by IOC

1824. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether timely non-supply of Bitumen by IOC reported to be a major problem of road development in the NE Region;

(b) if so, the details of action initiated by the Ministry for ensuring timely supply and the results obtained during the last three years;

(c) the details of new strategy finalized to streamline the system; and

(d) the details of various construction aids asked by various States of NER including equipments and the response of the Ministry on that issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry has discussed the problem with State Government officers of the N.E. Region and also taken up the issue with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the following steps have been taken to improve the position:

(1) Contractors have been made responsible for arranging bitumen by themselves.

(2) Ministry of Finance has been approached for waving the import duty on bitumen.

(3) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been approached for opening a depot of Haldia Refinery at Guwahati.

(d) 20 Road Rollers, 9 Excavators cum loader, 13 Tipping Trucks costing Rs. 375 lakh have been supplied to North-Eastern State during 1998-99. Similarly, 15 Road Rollers, 6 Excavators cum loaders and 6 Mini Hot Mix plants costing Rs. 204 lakh have been supplied during 1999-2000. In addition amount of Rs. 9 crore is tentatively earmarked for purchase of machinery for North-Eastern States.

Controversies in National Highway Development Project

1825. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Rs. 54,000 crore National Highway Development Project aimed at knitting together a mess of Expressways criss crossing the country has been worked out;